Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

R 051242Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2085

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI REACTION TO SADAT'S APRIL 3 SPEECH

- 1. MFA MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR VERED TOLD US APRIL 4 THAT SHE SAW NOTHING NEW OR STARTLING IN SADAT'S APRIL 3 SPEECH IN ALEXANDRIA. OBVIOUSLY, IT HAD NOT LIVED UP TO ITS ADVANCE BILLING. SHE NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN RUMORED THAT SADAT WOULD RENOUNCE EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, BUT THIS HAD FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. SHE SAW NOTHING NEW IN SADAT'S REVIEW OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS BUT SAID THAT SADAT'S PRESENTATION OF THE FACTS, AS ISRAELI KNEW THEM, WAS NOT FAR FROM TRUTH.
- 2. SHE DID FIND IT SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL THAT SADAT MADE NO MENTION OF SYRIA IN HIS SPEECH AND THOUGHT THAT HE HAD PERHAPS AVOIDED THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER THAT IT NOT BE AN ISSUE OF DISCUSSION WITH STUDENTS IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD THAT FOLLOWED. SHE FOUND CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS REMARKS ON ISRAEL RELATIVELY LOW KEY AND MORE OR LESS A

REPETITION OF PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS.

- 3. MRS VERED SAID THAT MOST INTERESTING PART OF SADAT'S APPEARANCE WAS STUDENTS' QUESTIONS WHICH FOLLOWED HIS SPEECH. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SADAT WAS IRRITATED BY THE QUESTIONS, SHE SAID, WHICH DEALT MAINLY WITH GENERAL INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. FOUND IT INTERESTING THAT SUBJECT OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL NO LONGER SEEMS OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS.
- 4. SADAT'S MOTIVATION IN GIVING HIS SPEECH, MRS VERED THOUGHT, WAS TO PROVE TO HIS PUBLIC THAT HIS POLICIES WERE GOOD FOR EGYPT. HE HAD CHOSEN STUDENTS AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY AS AUDIENCE FOR HIS SPEECH BECAUSE (A) UNIV OF ALEXANDRIA WAS LESS TROUBLESOME POLITICALLY THAN UNIVERITIES IN CAIRO AND (B) BECAUSE EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN GENERAL HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF HIS DECISION TO MOVE AWAY FROM RELIANCE ON SOVIET UNION AND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US. SADAT'S SPEECH WAS ATTEMPT TO REBUFF THIS CRITICISM AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE AMMUNITION TO THOSE EGYPTIANS WHO SUPPORTED HIS POLICIES.

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